

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please write the claims to read as follows:

Please cancel claims 2 and 12 without prejudice.

1 1. (Currently Amended): In a converged services platform, a media resources card com-
2 prising:

3 a central processing unit (CPU) and an associated CPU cache memory;

4 a plurality of digital signal processors (DSPs), each of which has an associated
5 DSP cache memory, coupled in communicating relationship with said CPU; and

6 a network interface, coupled in communicating relationship with said CPU,
7 through which said media resources card may communicate with a file server;

8 wherein said CPU and DSPs execute a caching algorithm in which a cached file
9 may be assigned at least one of a persistence level attribute and a timer expiration attrib-
10 ute, wherein said persistence level attribute includes programming for specifying how
11 readily or not said cached file may be deleted from one or more of said cache memories
12 in relation to a number of remaining cached files of other persistence levels.

1 2. (Canceled).

1 3. (Currently Amended): The media resources card as in claim 21, wherein said persis-
2 tence level may be assigned a value of "hard" denoting that said cached file is not to be
3 removed from said cache memories, regardless of the number of remaining cached files
4 of other persistence levels.

1 4. (Currently Amended): The media resources card as in claim 21, wherein said persis-
2 tence level may be assigned a value of “hard” denoting that said cached file is a cached
3 recording file, not to be removed from cache until said cached file is stored to a non-
4 volatile storage medium, regardless of the number of remaining cached files of other per-
5 sistence levels.

1 5. (Currently Amended): The media resources card as in claim 27, wherein said persis-
2 tence level may be assigned a value of “soft” denoting that said cached file is to remain in
3 said cache memories until after substantially all “none” cached files have been removed,
4 said “soft” cached files being removed then by a Least Recently Used (LRU) algorithm
5 removes it.

1 6. (Previously Presented): The media resources card as in claim 5, wherein said persis-
2 tence level may be assigned a value of “firm” denoting that said cached file is to remain
3 in said cache memories until after substantially all “soft” cached files have been removed,
4 said “firm” cached files also being removed then by an LRU algorithm.

1 7. (Currently Amended): The media resources card as in claim 21, wherein said persis-
2 tence level may be assigned a value of “none” denoting that said cached file is to be re-
3 moved from said cache memories for any reason.

1 8. (Currently Amended): The converged services platform as in claim 1, wherein said
2 timer expiration time-attribute includes programming for specifying a time period after
3 which said cached file may be deleted from one or more of said cache memories.

1 9. (Previously Presented): The media resources card as in claim 1, wherein said timer
2 expiration attribute overrides said persistence level attribute.

1 10. (Previously Presented): The media resources card as in claim 1, further comprising:
2 an application program for setting said timer expiration attribute and said persistence
3 level attribute of said cached files on a per file basis.

1 11. (Currently Amended): A method for use in a converged services platform having a
2 central processing unit (CPU) and a plurality of digital signal processors (DSPs), one of
3 said DSPs being assigned for playback of a requested file, said method comprising the
4 steps of:

5 executing a caching algorithm for said requested file, said caching algorithm re-
6 sulting in a cached file stored on a cache memory of at least one of said CPU and said
7 DSPs; and

8 assigning at least one of a persistence level attribute and a timer expiration attrib-
9 ute to said cached file, said persistence level attribute specifying how readily or not said
10 cached file may be deleted from one or more of said cache memories in relation to a
11 number of remaining cached files of other persistence levels.

1 12. (Canceled).

1 13. (Currently Amended): The method as in claim ~~12~~11, further comprising: assigning
2 said persistence level of said cached file a value of "hard" denoting that said cached file
3 is not to be removed from said cache memories, regardless of the number of remaining
4 cached files of other persistence levels.

1 14. (Currently Amended): The method as in claim ~~12~~11, further comprising: assigning
2 said persistence level of said cached file a value of "hard" denoting that said cached file
3 is a cached recording file, not to be removed from cache until said cached file is stored to

4 a non-volatile storage medium, regardless of the number of remaining cached files of
5 other persistence levels.

1 15. (Currently Amended): The method as in claim ~~12~~17, further comprising: assigning
2 said persistence level of said cached file a value of “soft” denoting that said cached file is
3 to remain in said cache memories until after substantially all “none” cached files have
4 been removed, said “soft” cached files being removed then by a Least Recently Used
5 (LRU) algorithm ~~removes it.~~

1 16. (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 15, further comprising: assigning
2 said persistence level of said cached file a value of “firm” denoting that said cached file is
3 to remain in said cache memories until after substantially all “soft” cached files have
4 been removed, said “firm” cached files also being removed then by an LRU algorithm

1 17. (Currently Amended): The method as in claim ~~12~~11, further comprising: assigning
2 said persistence level of said cached file a value of “none” denoting that said cached file
3 is to be removed from said cache memories for any reason.

1 18. (Currently Amended): The method as in claim 11, wherein said timer expiration at-
2 tribute ~~includes programming for specifying~~ specifies a time period after which said
3 cached file may be deleted from one or more of said cache memories.

1 19. (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 11, wherein said timer expiration
2 attribute overrides said persistence level attribute.

1 20. (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 11, further comprising the step of:
2 setting said timer expiration attribute and said persistence level attribute of said cached
3 files on a per file basis.

1 21. (Currently Amended): A method for use in a converged services platform having a
2 central processing unit (CPU) and a plurality of digital signal processors (DSPs), one of
3 said DSPs being assigned for playback of a requested file, said method comprising the
4 steps of: ~~The method as in claim 11, wherein said step of executing a caching algorithm~~
5 ~~further comprises the steps of:~~

6 executing a caching algorithm for said requested file, said caching algorithm re-
7 sulting in a cached file stored on a cache memory of at least one of said CPU and said
8 DSPs;

9 assigning at least one of a persistence level attribute and a timer expiration attrib-
10 ute to said cached file;

11 determining whether or not said requested file is contained within a cache mem-
12 ory of said converged services platform;

13 in response to a file not contained within a cache memory of said converged ser-
14 vices platform:

15 i) retrieving, at said CPU, said requested file from an associated file
16 server;

17 ii) caching said requested file in a cache memory of at least one of said
18 CPU and said assigned playback DSP;

19 in response to a file contained within said cache memory of said assigned play-
20 back DSP:

21 i) performing a playback of said file from said cache memory of said as-
22 signed playback DSP; and

23 in response to a file contained within said cache memory of said converged ser-
24 vices platform, but not contained within said cache memory of said assigned playback
25 DSP:

26 i) caching said file to said cache memory of said assigned playback DSP
27 contemporaneously with playback of said file from said cache memory of
28 said converged services platform containing said file.

1 22. (Currently Amended): In a converged services platform, a media resources card
2 comprising:

3 a central processing unit (CPU);

4 a plurality of digital signal processors (DSPs), one of said DSPs being assigned
5 for playback of a requested file;

6 means for executing a caching algorithm for said requested file, said caching al-
7 gorithm resulting in a cached file stored on a cache memory of at least one of said CPU
8 and said DSPs; and

9 means for assigning at least one of a persistence level attribute and a timer expira-
10 tion attribute to said cached file, said persistence level attribute specifying how readily or
11 not said cached file may be deleted from one or more of said cache memories in relation
12 to a number of remaining cached files of other persistence levels.